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Director of Central Intelligence

~~Top Secret~~

[redacted] 3.5(c)

CIACPAS NIDC 82-145C

National Intelligence Daily (Cable)

22 June 1982

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ARGENTINA: Political Impasse Continues

//The junta remains deadlocked on the problem of selecting a new president.[redacted] 3.5(c)

//The most prominently mentioned civilian candidate is Argentina's Ambassador to Venezuela, Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari. He has good contacts in the Army high command, and the other services reportedly would find him acceptable if no consensus military candidate emerges. Recently retired Army generals Domingo Bussi and Eduardo Crespi, who are close to former President Viola, also are under consideration.// [redacted] 3.5(c)

//Air Force commander Lami Dozo continues to push his candidacy despite mounting opposition from the Army. If his candidacy falters, however, the Air Force reportedly will insist on a civilian and reject any Army general. The Navy is arguing for a compromise civilian candidate [redacted] 3.5(c) 3.3(b)(1)

//The junta has decided that the new president will serve until 1 March 1984. The high command, moreover, has decided if a member of the junta becomes president, he will have to resign from the junta before assuming office.// [redacted]

Comment: //The inability to find a successor reflects divisions in the military on future political and economic policies and on the fate of those closely identified with the loss of the Falklands. The extended negotiations are frustrating civilian leaders, one of whom has condemned the procedure and called for elections to select a successor.// [redacted] 3.5(c)

//Most civilians, however, probably will continue waiting for the junta to set a date for elections, using the time to develop programs, select candidates and set up party organizations. A definite date for elections also could make the new government seem less transitory, perhaps helping decisionmaking on difficult economic and political questions.// [redacted]

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